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**Test Procedure for****SAMPLING CAST ALUMINUM RAILING POSTS****TxDOT Designation: Tex-731-I****Effective Date: March 2008**

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**1. SCOPE**

- 1.1 This test method outlines the procedure for sampling cast aluminum railing posts.
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**2. DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 Heat or lot—less than 1,000 lb. of trimmed castings when produced from batch type furnaces, or 2,000 lb. when produced from a continuous furnace during a period not exceeding 8 consecutive hours.
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**3. SAMPLING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 An authorized Department representative must select samples.
- 3.2 Perform sampling at the manufacturing plant or at the Department project site.
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**4. DOCUMENTATION**

- 4.1 All cast aluminum rail post samples must be accompanied by mill test reports (MTRs) covering the heats or lots sampled. MTRs must include the following information.
- heat or lot number,
  - chemical analysis of base material,
  - physical properties of cast metal after tempering, and
  - number of items per heat or lot.
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**5. PROCEDURES**

- 5.1 Visually inspect the heat or lot during sampling for obvious defects, such as blowholes, cracks, warpage, shrinks, or other defects that would be detrimental to the end of the post.
- 5.2 Check each post to ensure that the heat or lot number is die-stenciled or molded on the top of the base or on the web.
- 5.3 Select one post from each heat or lot for testing.
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**6. TAGGING/LABELING, DOCUMENTING, AND SHIPPING**

- 6.1 Follow the procedure detailed in Tex-701-I.
- 6.2 Place the Department monogram on the web of each sample post without obscuring the heat or lot number.
- 6.3 Include all information pertinent to each sample on [Form 202](#).
- 6.4 Securely attach Form 517 to the samples with wire or heavy cord.
- 6.5 Package samples securely to prevent damage during transit.

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**7. ARCHIVED VERSIONS**

- 7.1 Archived versions are available.